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PTO/SB/21 (08-00)

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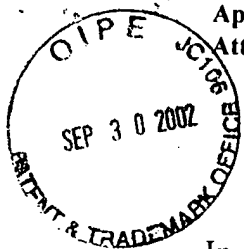
TRANSMITTAL FORM <i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i>	Application Number	09/771,186	
	Filing Date	01/29/2001	
	First Named Inventor	KOOL, Lawrence Bernard	
	Group Art Unit	1746	
	Examiner Name	Smetana, Jiri, F.	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	15	Attorney Docket Number	RD 28011 (3465)

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group
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<input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter
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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT	
Firm or Individual name	Christopher L. Bernard Reg. No.: 48,234 DOUGHERTY, CLEMENTS & HOFER
Signature	<i>Christopher L. Bernard</i>
Date	09/24/2002

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on this date: 09/24/2002			
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Application No.: 09/771,186
Attorney Docket No.: RD-28,011; 3465

PATENT

5/A
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of : KOOL, Lawrence Bernard
Application No. : 09/771,186
Filed : January 29, 2001
Title : A METHOD FOR REMOVING OXIDES
AND COATINGS FROM A SUBSTRATE
Examiner : Smetana, Jiri F.
Art Unit : 1746

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
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Washington, DC 20231

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION
UNDER 37 CFR 1.111

5 Dear Sir:

Prior to continued examination on the merits, Applicant respectfully requests that the above-referenced Application be amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

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Please amend Claims 1 and 23 as follows, without prejudice or disclaimer to continued examination on the merits:

Subcp
15 1. (Amended) A method for removing an oxide material from a surface of a substrate or a coating disposed on the substrate, comprising the step of contacting the oxide material with an aqueous composition which comprises an acid having the formula H_xAF_6 , or precursors to said acid, wherein A is selected from the group consisting of Si, Ge, Ti, Zr, Al, and Ga; and x is 1-6.